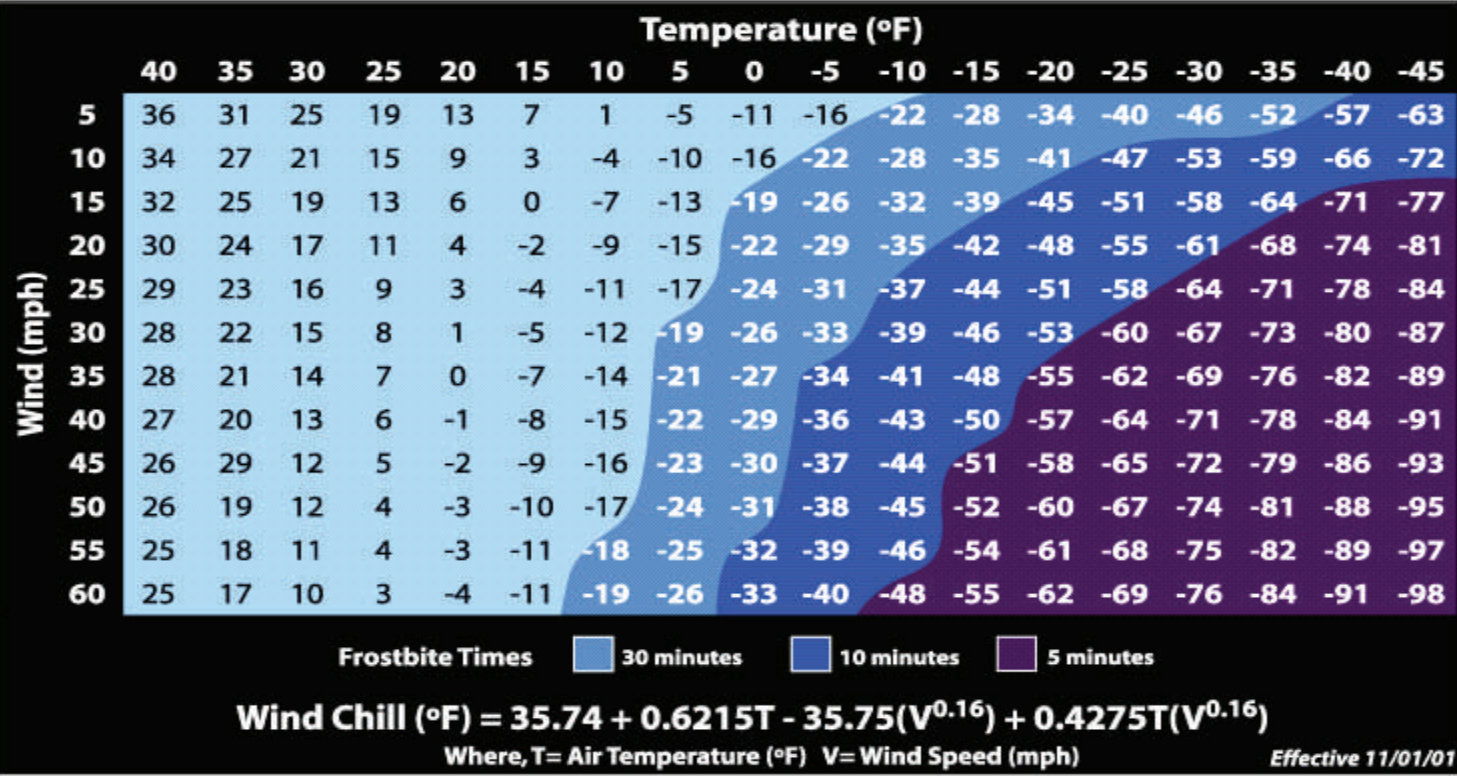




Wind Chill Chart



National Weather Service  
824 Brown Co 14 S  
Aberdeen SD 57401

**OFFICIAL BUSINESS**  
PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE, \$300

October's poplars are flaming  
torches lighting the way to winter.

~ Nova Bair

We're on the Internet  
<http://www.crh.noaa.gov/abr>

# SKY SCANNER

National Weather Service Forecast Office  
Aberdeen, South Dakota

October 2005

**SOUTH DAKOTA WINTER WEATHER PREPAREDNESS WEEK**  
OCTOBER 24 – 28, 2005

**MINNESOTA WINTER WEATHER AWARENESS WEEK**  
NOVEMBER 7 - 11, 2005

Winter Weather Preparedness is not something that “just happens”. It takes knowledge and planning. Winter weather can be deadly.

Your life depends on your actions when a winter storm strikes. Winter Storms can include blizzards, heavy snow, heavy accumulations of ice and extreme wind chills. These will make travel difficult to impossible, can knock out power and phone service, close roads, cutting you off from outside contact, and put your life at risk.

Living and working in winter weather presents health hazards that everyone needs to be aware of. The big threats are hypothermia and frostbite, but dehydration and heart attack are also problems.

Hypothermia is a lowering of the core body temperature. Frostbite is the freezing of exposed flesh. Both of these can be prevented by wearing proper clothing and avoiding over-exertion. To prevent dehydration drink plenty of fluids. Working in cold and snow is very strenuous. Shoveling snow is a major cause of heart attacks in males over the age of 40.

Are you prepared to sit out a winter storm? Do you have the necessary materials to survive on your own? Make sure you have an alternative heat source for your home and a generator. Operate the generator in a well ventilated area to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning. Stock enough foods and medicines to last for at least a week, in case a winter storm makes it impossible to travel.

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If traveling, carry a winter survival kit in your vehicle. This includes winter clothing for every person, extra blankets, water, and food that requires no cooking. If stranded, stay with the vehicle and wait to be rescued.

The National Weather Service has set up a Winter Weather Awareness Page on the internet at [www.weather.gov/om/winter](http://www.weather.gov/om/winter). This site contains general preparedness information, as well as links to other agencies such as the Red Cross and Federal Emergency Management Agency. There are also links to specific winter weather threats, and aids such as Wind Chill Charts, and long lead time climatic outlooks.

## Early Season Snowstorm Blasts Northern Plains

by Mindy Albrecht

An early fall snow storm slammed into the Northern Plains the first week of October, bringing heavy snow, high winds and much cooler temperatures to the region. The strong storm formed over the Rockies early in the week, bringing new snowfall to the mountain ranges of Montana. This system then slid east bringing quite a change from the temperatures in the mid 80s and 90s observed throughout the first few days of the month. This was one of the earliest snow storms ever recorded across the Northern Plains. The National Weather Service in Bismarck reported 10 to 15 inches of snow fell across western North Dakota, with a few scattered 15 to 18 inch amounts. Western South Dakota also received heavy snowfall with the National Weather Service in Rapid City indicating reports of 10 to 12 inches in Lawrence and Harding counties. Across central and northeast South Dakota mostly rain fell with this storm system beginning Tuesday afternoon October 4<sup>th</sup> and ending Wednesday October 5<sup>th</sup>. Two snowfall reports came in from north central South Dakota with 5 inches of snow reported near Morristown, and 3 inches falling near Isabel. The storm caused numerous power outages throughout western South Dakota, western and central North Dakota, Eastern Montana, and Eastern Wyoming. Many motorists were stranded on highways across North Dakota, with many schools closed for the day as well.

Although it seems a bit premature for a snowstorm of this magnitude, this isn't the earliest that snow has ever fallen in the state of South Dakota. At both Aberdeen and Watertown measurable snow has fallen as early as September 21<sup>st</sup>, when 0.2 inches of snow fell on that date in 1995 at both sites. Pierre's earliest snowfall came on October 1<sup>st</sup>, 1999 when 3.9 inches of snow fell on the state capital. Timber Lake also saw measurable snowfall on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of October in 1999 when 5 inches of snow covered the ground. Wheaton, MN recorded their earliest measurable snowfall of 1 inch on October 13<sup>th</sup>, 1997.

October is no stranger to snowfall with most sites across central, north central, and northeast South Dakota averaging around a half an inch to one inch of snowfall throughout the month. Wheaton in west central Minnesota averages just less than one half inch of snowfall during the month of October. In contrast, the latest 1<sup>st</sup> measurable snowfall of the season in Aberdeen occurred on January 8<sup>th</sup>, 1945 when the city received 0.4" of snow. Aberdeen also went through a 55 day precipitation lull from September 21<sup>st</sup> to November 17<sup>th</sup>, 1952 making this time period the longest period without measurable precipitation in history.

The cold temperatures associated with this system are also well below average for this part of October. The average maximum temperature in Aberdeen and Watertown for the first week of October is right around 65°F. In Pierre, that number is a slightly warmer at 68°F. The highs reported across the region Wednesday and Thursday of last week were only in the upper 30s to around 50. That puts the maximum temperatures almost 15 to 20 degrees colder than the seasonal average for this time of year. As for minimum temperatures the average for Pierre, Watertown, and Aberdeen is right around 39°F or 40°F for the first week in October. Minimum temperatures this past Wednesday night were only about 5 to 10 degrees colder than the average for this time of year, as most sites only dropped into the lower to mid 30s. However minimum temperatures the next few days dropped into the 20s across the area, showing a 15 to 20 degree drop from the seasonal average.

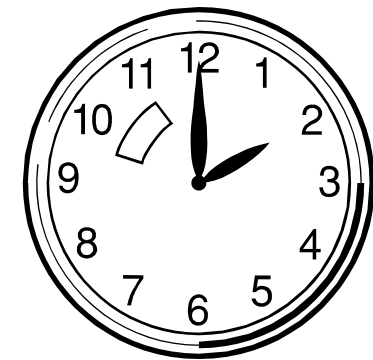
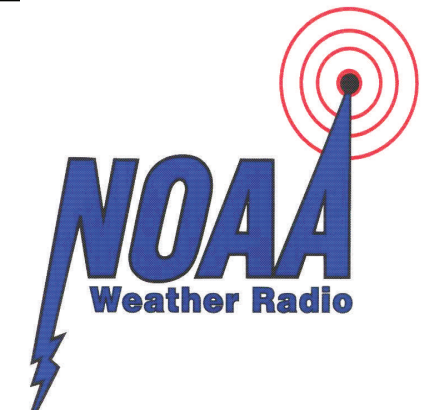


## NOAA Weather Radio Live Call-in Show

October 25th  
7:00 pm

Tune in to your local NOAA  
Weather Radio Frequency for  
your chance to call in questions  
to members of the Aberdeen  
National Weather Service staff.

Also listen for information on  
special guests.



October 30th  
**Don't forget to  
turn your  
clocks back one  
hour at  
2:00 am.**



Did you see us at the  
Gypsy Days Parade?

The National Weather Service  
float at the parade in Aberdeen.  
October 1st, 2005



## Local Coop Observer Honored

Evelyn Quade of Wilmot SD, 2003 winner of the prestigious John Campanius Holm Award, was presented with the Edward H. Stoll Award, marking her 50th year and final day as a volunteer Cooperative Weather Observer. After 50 years of enduring wintertime blizzards and the heat and torrential rains of summer, Evelyn has decided to retire and pass the observing duties onto her neighbor, Dan Chaloupka.

The Stoll award was established in honor of Edward Stoll who served as a cooperative weather observer without interruption for 76 years (1905 - 1981).

So, as Dan completes his first day as the new Weather Observer for Wilmot SD, we're sad to be saying good-bye to Evelyn, a long time, dedicated friend, but happy to be welcoming Dan who has only 49 years and 364 days left to reach the remarkable feat set by Evelyn Quade.



from L-R Hydro-meteorological Technician Ken Gillespie, Data Acquisition Program Manager Tim Kearns, Stoll Award Honoree Evelyn Quade and new COOP observer Dan Chaloupka.

## Ice Safety

Winter is still a time for having fun on the water. During the winter, lots of people turn in their boats for a snowmobile and take to icy lakes to enjoy the fishing. While a lot of fun, there are dangers involved with these activities. Ice on a lake will not be a uniform thickness, or be able to bear the same amount of weight as another section of ice of the same thickness. There are many factors involved: age, thickness, temperature or whether or not the ice is covered with snow. Strength is based on all these factors – plus the depth of water under the ice, size of the water body, water chemistry and currents, the distribution of the load on the ice, and local climatic conditions.

**Recommended minimum ice thickness - These thicknesses are merely guidelines for new, clear, solid ice. Many factors other than thickness can cause ice to be unsafe.**

4" of new clear ice is the minimum thickness for travel on foot

5" is the minimum for snowmobiles and small ATVs

8"- 12" for cars or small trucks

**Check for known thin ice areas with a local resort or bait shop.** You can test the thickness yourself using an ice chisel, ice auger or even a cordless drill with a long bit.

**Refrain from driving on ice whenever possible.** If you must drive a vehicle, be prepared to leave it in a hurry: keep windows down, unbuckle your seat belt and have a simple emergency plan of action you have discussed with your passengers.

**Stay away from alcoholic beverages.** Any amount of alcohol is enough to cause a careless error in judgment that could cost you your life. Contrary to common belief, alcohol actually makes you colder rather than warming you up.

**Don't "overdrive" your snowmobile's headlight.** At even 30 miles per hour, it can take a much longer distance to stop on ice than your headlight shines. Many fatal snowmobile through-the-ice accidents occur because the machine was traveling too fast for the operator to stop when the headlamp illuminated the hole in the ice.

**Wear a life vest under your winter gear.** Or wear one of the new flotation snowmobile suits. And it's a good idea to carry a pair of ice picks that may be home made or purchased from most well stocked sporting goods stores that cater to winter anglers. It's amazing how difficult it can be to pull yourself back onto the surface of unbroken but wet and slippery ice while wearing a snowmobile suit weighted down with 60 lbs of water. The ice picks really help to pull yourself back onto solid ice. **CAUTION:** Do NOT wear a flotation device when traveling across the ice in an enclosed vehicle! It will make it harder to get out of the vehicle if you go through the ice.

Have fun on the ice – but be safe.

*Information courtesy of SD Game, Fish & Parks and MN Dept. of Natural Resources*



1-605-225-0519

When significant or unusual weather events occur, give us a call! We're always happy to hear from the public, especially if you're calling to report freezing rain or snow accumulations of 2" or more. Don't wait until the next day...call us when it's happening.



## New Climate Page

by Dan Mohr

The National Weather Service recently unveiled the new climate page for all its homepages across the country. The Aberdeen National Weather Service's climate page contains a wealth of information for Aberdeen along with several other locations across central and northeast South Dakota. When visiting our homepage, just click on the climate tab on top and see for yourself. **Note:** new products and updates will be ongoing with the climate page.

On our office climate page, you will notice the many different areas you can visit including, climate home, observed weather, climate prediction, climate resources, local data/records, and astronomical information. In the observed weather section, you can follow through a couple steps to retrieve any one of the following products for selected locations: the daily climate summary, the monthly climate summary, the preliminary climate data (updated daily), record event reports (temperature or precipitation), daily regional and statewide high and lows and precipitation. The process of retrieving a product is very simple. Choose a product type, location, timeframe, and then the click to view tab. When choosing a product, a detailed product description is located at the bottom of the page informing you of what the product contains, when it is issued, how far back you retrieve past products, etc.

Climate prediction is of great interest to many customers, especially in the extended and long range outlooks. Under the climate prediction tab, you will find the latest 6 to 10 day outlooks, 8 to 14 day outlooks, and 30 and 90 day outlooks for the continental United States. Also, information on climate variability factors such as El Nino and La Nina can be easily accessed from this location. A couple very useful products to note on this page are the U.S. Hazards Assessment and the U.S. Drought Assessment maps. The Hazards Assessment is intended to provide emergency managers, planners, forecasters, and the public advance notice of potential hazards related to climate, weather, and hydrological events.

On each Thursday, CPC (Climate Prediction Center), together with the United States Department of Agriculture, the National Drought Mitigation Center in Lincoln, Nebraska, and NOAA's National Climatic Data Center, issues a weekly drought assessment called the United States Drought Monitor. The Monitor provides a consolidated depiction of national drought conditions based on a combination of drought indicators and field reports. The CPC issues the Seasonal United States Drought Outlook each month in conjunction with the Thursday release of the long-lead temperature and precipitation outlooks near the middle of the month. The Drought Outlooks show areas where drought is expected to develop, persist, worsen, or improve over the next several months.

Under the Climate Resources tab, you will find many other different places you can visit to see climate information. You can view climate information outside the local area such as the high and low temperatures for the past 24 hours for the entire country. You can also visit the state and regional climate offices across the country. One very important location for all historical data and if you need certified data is the National Climatic Data Center in Ashville, North Carolina. The Local/Data records tab contains information on normals for five locations across central and northeast South Dakota and extremes for Aberdeen compared to South Dakota. The weather extremes for other locations will be added in the future.

Finally, on the climate page you will find astronomical data for sunrise/sunset, moonrise/moonset along with the phases of the moon for anywhere in the United States.

The National Weather Service Climate pages will continue to be improved as time goes along with new products being added. In the not so distant future, a local downscaled product will be produced for seven locations across our area. The downscaled product is produced from the Climate Prediction Center's long range outlooks giving you the probabilities of above, near, or below normal temperatures at a specific location for a three-month period. Also, a composite analysis product of historical impacts of El Nino/La Nina on the area will be produced and posted on the climate page sometime in late 2006 or early 2007.

## New Employees



Cory Behnke

I was born and raised in the small northeastern Wisconsin town of Peshtigo (site of the Great Peshigo Fire of 1871). I am a spring 2003 graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee with a Bachelor of Science degree in Atmospheric Sciences. I also fulfilled the requirements for a Master of Science degree in Mathematics (Atmospheric Sciences option) from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee in the spring of 2005. My thesis was titled "Synoptic and Local Controls of the Lake Michigan Pneumonia Front".

A few weather interests I have are forecasting at the synoptic and mesoscale levels, as well as re-searching problematic forecasting issues.

Interests other than professional include hunting, fishing, golfing, and learning to play guitar. My wife Julie and I are newlyweds, and I am extremely excited to start my new career as a Meteorologist Intern in the always active northern Plains



Scott Doering

I grew up in Moline, Illinois, which rests on the banks of the Mississippi River. In my younger years, I never paid much attention to the weather, besides a few glances at the clouds. My first curiosity in weather did not occur until 1993, when massive flooding occurred on the Mississippi River due to extensive weeks of rainfall. At the time, the flood crest was the fifth highest on record.

I continued my enjoyment in weather by taking an introduction to meteorology class at the local community college. I was unsure of a career track at that time and thought meteorology seemed pretty easy. Little did I realize I needed so many math classes. Upon graduating from community college, I enrolled at Western Illinois University with a major in Meteorology and a minor in Geology. While there, I took part in many honor clubs and was eventually elected president to one called Sigma Gamma Epsilon. During my senior year, I received a student internship with the National Weather Service in Davenport, Iowa. My duties in Davenport consisted of launching weather balloons and data collection, much like here in Aberdeen.

My graduation day was one that I will never forget. I missed my own graduation to work a severe weather event at the Davenport office. On that day, we had several tornadoes touchdown with one reaching an F2 and another reaching F3 status. I knew from that day on I wanted to work for the National Weather Service. I spent the next two years volunteering at the Davenport office gaining experience. I was highly involved in organizing and presenting spotter training classes. I also helped out on several severe weather events and even conducted a damage survey of an F3 tornado that went through the towns of Granville and Utica, Illinois.

The first job I was offered was teaching Introduction to Meteorology, the same class I took years earlier. However, four weeks before the semester was to start, and the day before my birthday, I was offered a job as a Meteorologist Intern with the National Weather Service in Aberdeen. I politely backed out of the teaching position, and moved to Aberdeen and could not be happier.

Ring In The **NEW**